

CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

- 5 1. In a computer system, a method of displaying information, comprising  
the steps of:
- a) accessing a flag indicating a display mode of a display screen of a computer system, wherein said display mode indicates a display capability of said display screen;
  - 10 b) an application program of said computer system making a call to request a display attribute for an object to be displayed on said display screen;
  - c) in response to said request, indexing a table with said flag and an object identifier to obtain a display attribute, wherein said object identifier identifies said object, and wherein said table is located externally of said
  - 15 application program and comprises a list of said object identifiers and a plurality of display attribute lists, each of said display attribute lists having a display attribute associated with each of said object identifiers; and,
  - d) said application program displaying said object on said display screen with said display attribute, wherein said display capability of said display screen
  - 20 is transparent to said application program.
2. The method of Claim 1, wherein said plurality of display attribute lists comprise a first and a second, and wherein:
- said first display attribute list has all of its associated display attributes
  - 25 being color; and,
  - said second display attribute list has all of its associated display attributes being monochrome.

3. The method of Claim 2, wherein said plurality of display attribute lists comprise a third, and wherein said third display attribute list has all of its associated display attributes being a gray-scale value.

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4. The method of Claim 1, wherein one of said display attribute lists has all of its associated display attributes as being colors which are substantially different from each other, such that debugging said application program is facilitated.

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5. The method of claim 1, further comprising the step of said application program changing at least one of the display attributes in at least one of said display attribute lists.

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6. The method of claim 5, further comprising the step of said application program causing said changes to the display attributes to remain in effect when the next application program runs.

7. The method of Claim 5, further comprising the step of:

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each time the computer system starts up, assigning a random color to each undefined color, such that if the application program changes one of said display attributes to one of said undefined colors, then the display attribute of said object displayed on said display screen is likely to be different each time the computer system starts up.

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8. The method of Claim 1, further comprising the step of a user of said computer system changing said display mode.

9. The method of Claim 1, wherein said table resides in an operating system of said computer system.

5 10. A computer system comprising:

a processor coupled to a bus;

a display screen coupled to said bus;

a memory unit coupled to said bus and comprising instructions that when executed by said processor implement a method of displaying information,

10 comprising the steps of:

a) accessing a flag indicating a display mode of a display screen of a computer system, wherein said display mode indicates a display capability of said display screen;

15 b) an application program of said computer system making a call to request a display attribute for an object to be displayed on said display screen;

c) in response to said request, indexing a table with said flag and an object identifier to obtain a display attribute, wherein said object identifier identifies said object, and wherein said table is located externally of said application program and comprises a list of said object identifiers and a plurality of display attribute lists, each of said display attribute lists having a display attribute associated with each of said object identifiers; and,

20 d) said application program displaying said object on said display screen with said display attribute, wherein said display capability of said display screen is transparent to said application program.

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11. A computer system as described in Claim 10, wherein said computer system is a portable computer system.

12. A computer system as described in Claim 10, wherein said computer system is a palm-sized computer system.

5 13. In a palmtop computer system, a method of displaying information, comprising the steps of:

a) accessing a flag indicating a display mode of a display screen of a computer system, wherein said display mode indicates a display capability of said display screen;

10 b) an application program of said computer system making a call to request a display attribute for an object to be displayed on said display screen;

c) in response to said request, indexing a table with said flag and an object identifier to obtain a display attribute, wherein said object identifier identifies said object, and wherein said table is located externally of said application program and comprises a list of said object identifiers and a plurality of display attribute lists, each of said display attribute lists having a display attribute associated with each of said object identifiers; and,

15 d) said application program displaying said object on said display screen with said display attribute, wherein said display capability of said display screen is transparent to said application program.

14. The method of Claim 13, wherein said plurality of display attribute lists comprise a first and a second, and wherein:

25 said first display attribute list has all of its associated display attributes being color; and,

said second display attribute list has all of its associated display attributes being monochrome.

5 15. The method of Claim 14, wherein said plurality of display attribute lists comprise a third, and wherein said third display attribute list has all of its associated display attributes being a gray-scale value.

10 16. The method of Claim 13, wherein one of said display attribute lists has all of its associated display attributes as being colors which are substantially different from each other, such that debugging said application program is facilitated.

15 17. The method of claim 13, further comprising the step of said application program changing at least one of the display attributes in at least one of said display attribute lists.

20 18. The method of claim 17, further comprising the step of:  
said application program causing said changes to the display attributes to remain in effect when the next application program runs.

25 19. The method of Claim 17, further comprising the step of:  
each time the computer system starts up, assigning a random color to each undefined color, such that if the application program changes one of said

display attributes to one of said undefined colors, then the display attribute of said object displayed on said display screen is likely to be different each time the computer system starts up.

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20. The method of Claim 13, further comprising the step of a user of said computer system changing at least one of said display attributes.

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